Presentation regarding Promenade Tache

Date: Tuesday March 15, 2016

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Policy Committee for allowing me to speak about importance of updating Promenade Tache. My name is Shawn Brandson and I am speaking to you as the Chair of the Provencher Biz.

As many of you know Promenade Tache is an interpretive park that was opened by Queen Elizabeth the second on October 6th, 1984. The park is currently used by many Winnipeggers and tourists alike. It has the best unobstructed river view of Downton Winnipeg, the Forks, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Esplanade Riel and many other gems of Winnipeg. Many photographic and video images have been taken from Promenade Tache as a visual representation our City and province. Our local meteorologists talk about the weather with an image from Promenade Tache's vantage point in the background. My favorite shot is when I see of the amazing view during National broadcasts of Jets games. It is truly an iconic spot for Winnipeg.

Unfortunately the visual state of the existing park itself is poor at best. In its current state of disrepair many of the interpretive signs are damaged and with the walkway being very dangerous in spots.

Park placard signs that used to be in place have aged and fallen down. Interpretive sign board text has peeled away with much of its information missing or unreadable. It does not paint a good picture of the Saint Boniface Promenade to our citizens or visitors. One of the signs which was knocked down during snow removal 3 years ago has disappeared and in no longer in place.

One of the portions of sidewalk that is on Saint Boniface's Primary flood dyke has a sidewalk wedged between a guard rail on the river side and just inches from the street traffic on Tache Avenue. It narrows so much that it is almost impossible for two people to walk abreast. A portion of the guard rail on the river bank side rusted and broke away about a year ago and has been fixed by placing a orange snowfence at the spot. This dangerous stretch of sidewalk needs to be updated to

Submitted by Shawn Brandson.
Provencher BIZ
EPC - March 15, 2016

create a memorable and desirable vista rather than the current experience. The million dollars from The Winnipeg Foundation would help this spot immensely.

The current proposal for updating Promenade Tache would be a mid-bank walkway that would allow the walkway to be open 12 months of the year without the issues of a major spring cleanup or flooding. It would create a tourist draw to some of the important Historic features of St. Boniface which include

The Archbishops house built in 1864 is one of the oldest stone buildings in Western Canada

The Gravesite of Louis Riel in the Saint Boniface Cemetery also Western Canada's oldest Catholic cemetery.

The Saint Boniface Cathedral's iconic structure is mother parish for many early Canadian French settlements. Founded as a Roman Catholic Mission in 1818.

Saint Boniface museum built in 1846 as the convent for the Grey Nuns who formed the first hospital in Western Canada. It is the oldest building in Winnipeg and a National historic Site of Canada

All these historic gems are all located in this small fifteen hundred meter concentrated tract of land and would be featured in a much better way with an updated Promenade Tache.

As a member of Team Winnipeg and Winnipeg tour connections I am aware how important tourism is to Winnipeg. According to the 2011 Cities Profile for Winnipeg, the tourism sector sees four million visitors annually with more than 647 million in direct annual expenditures. Tourism Winnipeg has had a strong desire for many years to position Old Saint Boniface as a major attraction and this will help this goal immensely. To create a complete loop linking the forks, human rights museum, Esplanade Riel bridge down Promenade Tache and then back up Elizabeth bridge and then to the forks. This would create an amazing loop showcasing some of the best parts of our city.

The return on investment for then City's commitment would be remarkable with this update to enhance Tache Promenade.

This is not money spent in a park in a tucked away little area, this is a historic area with so many things to offer just waiting to be utilized and embraced.

Winnipeg needs to celebrate Promenade Tache and the History of our community.

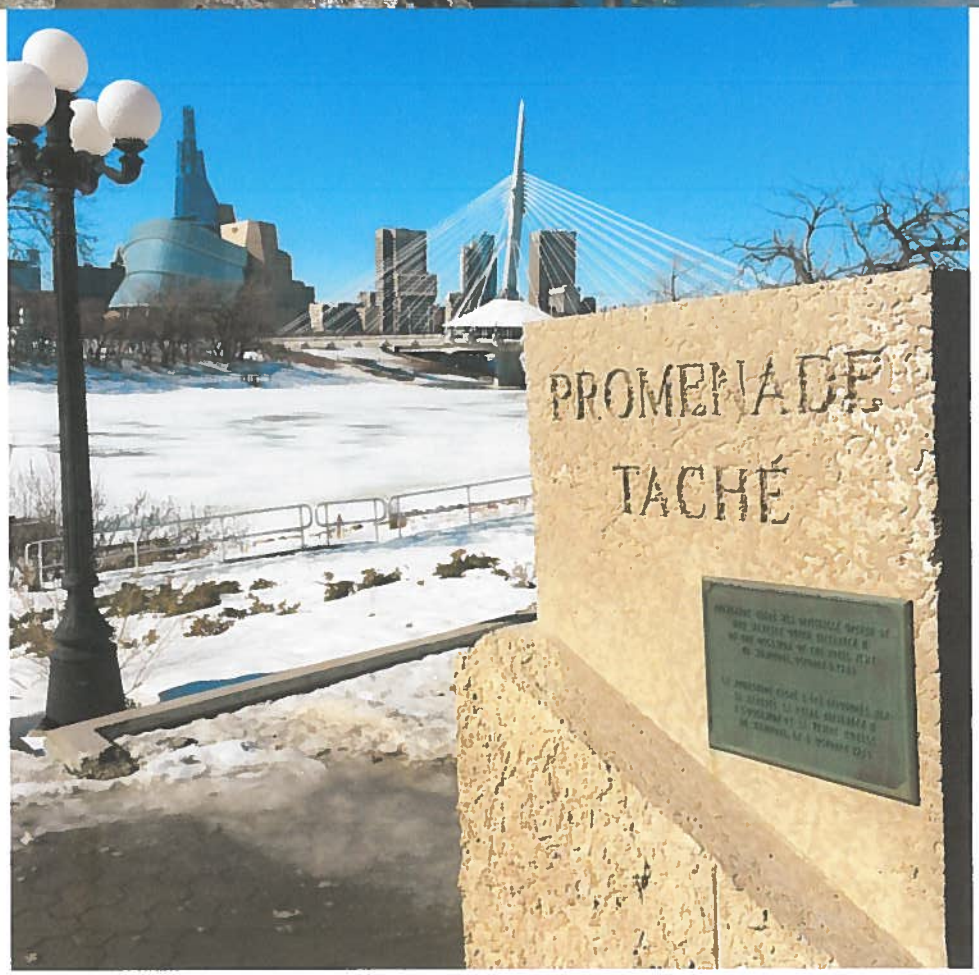
We ask that the City of Winnipeg to commit to Updating Promenade Tache and allow more Winnipeggers and tourists to utilize this Historic space. It will create unique experiences and will be used all year long for people visiting Winnipeg, Saint Boniface and the the Provencher Biz Zone.

Presented by Shawn Brandson, Chair Provencher Biz
Ph: 204-999-5827 E: shawnbrandson@gmail.com

Pictures of Promenade Tache walkway after meeting with city on March 7, 2016
Shawn Brandson 204-999-5827 shawnbrandson@gmail.com







Pictures of Promenade Tache walkway after meeting with city on March 7, 2016
Shawn Brandson 204-999-5827 shawnbrandson@gmail.com



